

Fanfare

Strathroy Chapter
Established 1995

Member of
Ontario District

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to it's borders and beyond."

What a great warm day for a charity performance in the park for the Strathroy Turkeyfest! The weather was fine for an outdoor show. We had a small group of barbershoppers assembled, all parts represented. Then the fun began.

The Sing-Out From Heck

John Gough

We arrived at the park 30 minutes prior to our scheduled performance time. We then had to stand in the heat for an hour while we waited for two acts to finish. Now don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining. These things happen. The sound man quickly set up eight microphones for the eight of us. It sounded like a good idea at the time.

As we began to sing, we had about 12 people listening from 100 feet away in the shade of a nice tree. The cute little train was doing its five minute circuit behind us carrying children merrily along. It also gaily tooted its loud whistle every time around right behind us.

The turkey races were going on 100 feet to our left to the delight of a large audience. A little theatre production, complete with music and loudspeakers was going on 100 feet to our right. These were not a problem, yet.

Midway through our half hour performance, the country-rock band located 300 yards to our left decided to do their sound check for their evening performance. It proceeded for about ten minutes completely drowning us out.

Then a 50 pound turkey got loose and ran in front of our stage with a couple of men in hot pursuit. This drew a lot of attention away from our performance. It's hard to compete with a loose turkey.

Continuing with the unlikely events, an ambulance with lights flashing drove across in front of the stage to get to an unfortunate person who required serious medical attention and had to be taken away on a stretcher. Back to the sound system. I've never heard tenor quite so loud in all my life and a beautiful part it is. Our Turkeyfest soundman did not have a good grasp of balance within a barbershop chorus.

But to top it all off, following our performance, a lady approached us with the nicest compliments saying that she would like to have us sing at her church in the fall. You never know!

The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing In America, Inc.

The Strathroy Chapter meets Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in Strathroy, Ontario Canada.